

324-337

Constantine I was Byzantine Emperor

3 July
324

Constantine gathered a great army and flew & moved against Licinius.

The 2 armies converged on Hadrianopolis, where on 3 July 324 Constantine won a decisive victory. Licinius fled across the Bosphorus & appointed the commander of his bodyguard MARTIUS MARTINIANUS as Augustus.

324

With death of Licinius Constantine became sole ruler in 324. During the next decade Constantine organized not only the defense vs. SARMATIANS and Goths from Pannonia to the mouth of the Danube but he also resumed the offensive

324-330 AD

Foundation of Constantinople on
site of Byzantium.

Licinius again challenged Constantine.

Licinius lost his throne.
Then he lost his life.

Constantine was sole emperor of the empire.

In a reign of peace, he set about rebuilding the strength of old Rome. Constantine continued to tolerate Paganism and even to

encourage the imperial cult.

Constantine also endeavored to strengthen Christianity

Construction began on the
Roman Basilica of St. John
Lateran

Constantine donated the imperial palace
of the LATERAN to the BISHOP of ROME.
as his official residence.

He built Cathedral of Saint John
Lateran on an adjacent plot

324-337 AD

Reign of Constantine as
undisputed emperor

Constantine publicly announced his own adherence to the faith

But Constantine continued to have his court at Nicomedia on the opposite side of the Bosphorus and it was another 50 yrs before Constantinople became the permanent imperial residence

Until it fell in 1453 Constantinople was the principal Christian city

the world.

CONSTANTINE THE GREAT

Reorganized the empire: Four Prefectures (rulers had only civil authority), which were divided into 13 dioceses, and these divided again into 120 provinces. The army & other officials were directly under his authority, but civil and military power were made separate. The Empire was divided among his 3 sons.

Constantinople became the capital. Christians were protected by Constantine and Christianity.

was made the state religion by the Edict
of Milan 313 A.D.

In a final campaign Constantine defeated and captured Licinius and reunited the whole empire under the rule of one man.

July 324

Constantine defeated Licinius at
HADRIANOPOlis

18 Sept 324

Constantine passed his own army
across the Bosphorus and defeated
Licinius again at CHRYSTOPOLIS

A few days later Licinius and
Maximianus surrendered to Constantine
at NICOMEDIA in the understanding their
lives would be spared. Constantine sent
LICINIUS to Thessalonica to live as a
private citizen

Sept 324

Licinius was defeated at
CHRYSOPOLENS, Constantine was
sole ruler of the whole Roman
Empire

Licinius is defeated

Constantine becomes sole emperor

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Constantine, after his final victory over Licinius, formed an entirely new capital on the site of the existing city of Byzantium. This involved an enormous building program, but within 6 years the city was ready for dedication as Constantinople. But he did not neglect Rome. He completed the BASILICA NOVA begun by Maxentius, and was responsible for the last of the great

imperial bath buildings — the Baths of Constantine.

His mother Helena was buried in a special mausoleum at TOR PIGNATTARA in the via PRAENESTINA (the sarcophagus can be seen in the Vatican Museum) and his daughter Constantina was buried in what is now the church of SANTA COSTANZA

HE DISBANDED THE PRAETORIAN GUARD

19 Dec 324

licious was forced to abbreviati

Licinius was defeated at
ADRIANOPLIS and at CHALCEDON.
He surrendered in NICOMEDIA
He was executed by order of
Constantine.

Constantine had Licinius executed
on charge that he had resumed
his intrigues

324-337

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Contortens sole emper

Constantine eliminated his co-emperor.

He seized the treasures and estates of most pagan temples. He gave vast sums to the Christians, especially for building.

Magnificent churches were built at Rome, many cities of Italy, Nicomedia, Antioch, Jerusalem, Bethlehem, and Hebron.

He made Sunday a holiday.

324

Second Mexican Licinian War.

324 AD

CONSTANTINUS I (the Great)

was emperor

Constantine I (the Great) first
Christian emperor

324 AD

Constantine became sole emperor

He carried on Diocletian's work of reconstructing and stabilizing the Empire. To stabilize the manpower situation, necessary for the production of essential goods and services as well as the collection of taxes, Constantine issued a series of decrees which froze people to their occupation and place of origin.

324 AD

Empire reunited

Constantine became sole emperor.
He had decided to make Christianity
the state religion and the growing
about Arianism which threatened
to split the religion into two
hostile camps was very
unwelcome.

When Bishop Alexander excommunicated
Arius and the latter appealed to Bishop

Lucius of Nicomedia, who sympathized with him, the emperor thought it time to intervene

324 A.D.

ASHKELON

Constantine officially
recognized Christianity.
monasteries flourished near
Ashkelon and throughout
the region

Amphorae from the Byzantine
era were found as far away
as London

Cartonine actively advocated
Catholicism. His support of the
Church facilitated more conversions
of Pagans.

The result was the incorporation of
many pagan customs into Catholic
liturgy.

These customs included: devotion
to relics, use of the kiss as a sign of

reverence for holy objects; the practice
 of kneeling; the use of candles and
 incense, and the increased use
 of ceremonies patterned on
 those used in the imperial
 court.

AD 324 → 1453

Constantinople had 88 emperors.

29 were butchered, including

Basiliscus, starved to death in 477

Phocas desmembered in 610

Constans II bludgeoned to death in 668

Romanus III drowned in 1034

Alexius II strangled in 1183

Andronicus I, tortured to death in 1185

Constantine gave the bishop of
Rome his Lateran palace
as residence, which it
remained until 1308

Constantine recognized the Catholic clergy as a distinct social class exempt from military service and forced labor. He increased the authority of the bishops by giving civil authority to their judicial decisions. He also enabled the church to accumulate wealth by legalizing bequests to it.

Earlier the Catholic clergy had not been sharply differentiated from the laity in their lifestyle. They had married, raised children, and supported themselves

c 324

Constantine erected a basilica
over the tomb of Peter in Rome.

Also a basilica over tomb of
Christ in Jerusalem.

Edict of Toleration throughout
the Empire.

325AD.

#1

NICAEA I

Ecumenical Council

Emper Constantine I - Pope St. Sylvester I
Attended by approx. 300 bishops; sessions
held between May 20 & June 19 to near
end of Aug.

Condemned ARIANISM, which denied
the divinity of Christ.

Contributed to formulation of the
NICEAN Creed.

Fixed the date of Easter.

Passed regulations concerning clerical discipline.

Adopted the civil division of the Empire as the model for the organization of the church.